(b) and (c) In a *suo motu* statement made in Parliament on 30 November 2007, the Minister of External Affairs referred to the concern expressed by Hon'ble Members of Parliament regarding the alleged harassment of participants of the rally organised by the Hindu Rights Action Force (HINDRAF) in Kuala Lumpur on 25 November 2007 and subsequent related matters. The Minister of External Affairs stated that Government remain deeply solicitous for the welfare of people of Indian origin living abroad and noted that there is a large community of people of Indian origin in Malaysia who are citizens of that country. He added that we have friendly relations with Malaysia and we are in touch with the Malaysian authorities in the related matter. During our interactions with Malaysian authorities, concerns expressed in India, including in the Parliament, regarding the developments pertaining to the Indian community in Malaysia have been suitably conveyed.

Harassment of Indians in Nepal

†243. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians in the tarai region of Nepal are being oppressed;

(b) the number of people returning to India during the last year;

(c) whether the number of the people going to Nepal from India has come down during the last year; and

(d) whether Government is worried about the above issues and whether the reasons have been identified?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government are closely monitoring political developments in Nepal. All possible steps are being taken to safeguard the interests of the Indian community in Nepal, including those residing in the tarai region.

India and Nepal have open borders and a visa-free regime, which permits the free movement of Indian the Nepalese nationals across the border in both directions, making it difficult to estimate the precise numbers of those returning to India.

Nuclear doctrine of Pakistan

244. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the nuclear doctrine of Pakistan in the year 2002, it was mentioned that nuclear weapons are made keeing only India in mind;

(b) whether four situations also have been mentioned therein when it would use the weapons; and

(c) if so, whether above mentioned is being kept in mind while fixing the priorities of present nuclear deals?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.